



# **Veterans-For-Change Newsletter**

*A Voice of the Veterans*

Week Ending Sunday, February 19, 2017

Volume 8, Issue 08

---

## **This-N-That**

I would like to thank all those who wrote to me telling me their stories. I really didn't expect the number of people who would write to me, but I do thank you and I haven't forgotten you either. I will respond to you in the order the stories were received.

Should you have a story to tell me regarding your interactions with the VA and your claim or appeal, please do write to me, all information is held in strictest of confidence, and when your stories are sent to members of Congress, it requires them to contact me allowing me the opportunity to ask you later if your contact information can be provided to them.

This past couple of weeks has been busy with sending out

faxes to the members of congress, and the Los Angeles County City Council regarding several issues.

First was a 9-point list of things many Veterans nationwide want corrected, changed, fixed or removed, that cover page as well as the 9-points are at the bottom of this newsletter.

The others were in regard to our Homeless Veterans and the land grabbing going on at the West Los Angeles VA Medical Center.

So far we've had a response from a Congresswoman in CT and a Congresswoman in FL. The one in CT is actually being very responsive to the 9-points (at the bottom of this newsletter), the Congresswoman from FL sent it on to the VA to respond, so from her office it was pretty much business as usual and NOTHING of value came of that.

There are a few action items in this newsletter, and as always telephone numbers which you can use to contact your reps in DC. This week I would like to encourage you to please take action on the items needing action and to please call your reps in DC and ask about the 9-points and why they've not responded.

On the OFF chance they did not get the fax, please ask for their fax number and send it to me and I will gladly send a repeat fax to them. Out of 535 members of both the House and Senate combined, only eleven did not receive as their machines were either turned off, out of paper or out of ink.

Some were sent to their home office in their state just to make sure they did receive it.

We really need to put the pressure on the VA Secretary to address and resolve Veteran Suicides, Veteran Homelessness, Blue Water Navy which in a quote direct from Julianna Boor, "Blue Water Veterans are not presumed to have been exposed to Agent Orange!" In addition claims processing speed and approval, delays in BVA hearings and much more.

This is why it's so important for all of us to stay on our Reps back like a crappy diaper until they pay attention!

On behalf of our Volunteers nationwide and myself, we wish you and your family good health!

Respectfully,

Jim Davis

Founder

[Jim.Davis@Veterans-For-Change.org](mailto:Jim.Davis@Veterans-For-Change.org)

---

**VA Extends Pilot Dental Program**

Beginning in 2014, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) piloted the VA Dental Insurance Program ([VADIP](#)), which provided an opportunity for certain eligible Veterans and their beneficiaries to purchase dental insurance from private insurance companies at a discounted rate. That program was slated to end Jan. 31, but a law passed in the summer of 2016 allows already enrolled veterans to keep their insurance for twelve more months. The legislation also keeps the program funded through 2021. For more information, visit the [VADIP webpage](#), call 877-222-VETS (8387), and read the [VA Vantage Point Blog](#).

---

## **State of Emergency in Several Counties in California**

The governor of California has declared a State of Emergency in several counties due to flooding. Emergency refill procedures are in place from February 12, 2017 through March 15, 2017.

Read full details [here](#).

Sign up for TRICARE e-mail updates at [www.tricare.mil/subscriptions](http://www.tricare.mil/subscriptions).

---



---

## **Six Things About Military Retirement Pay**

Moving from active duty pay to military retirement pay can bring some surprises. It's a lot better if you're prepared! Here are [six things](#) that often surprise new military retirees, and a bonus surprise that's actually about your last active duty paycheck.

---

## **CBO Recommends Eliminating Concurrent Receipt**

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO), the federal agency within the legislative branch of government that provides budget and economic information to Congress,

recently issued a report with options for reducing the federal deficit. One of the options provided by the CBO, is the elimination of concurrent receipt of retirement pay and disability compensation for disabled former service members. This was not a recommendation, but one of many options provided to Congress in the report. There is no move in Congress to implement this CBO option.

"Concurrent receipt" means to receive both the full amount of the service-earned military retired pay and the full amount of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability compensation. Up until FY 2001, however, any retired service member who received VA disability compensation had that amount of VA compensation deducted from their military retired pay. This is referred to as an "offset." FRA supports payment of full military retired pay and veterans' disability compensation for all disabled retirees.

Since 2001 FRA has made progress in achieving its goal of comprehensive concurrent receipt reform. There are two separate Department of Defense programs for disability compensation: Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC) and Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay (CRDP). All those who receive CRSC receive concurrent receipt. Military retirees receiving CRDP with 20 or more years of service, and a 50 percent or higher service-connected disability rating, have concurrent receipt. CRDP beneficiaries with less than 50 percent disability rating and also those medically retired with less than 20 years of service (Chapter 61), are not eligible for concurrent receipt.

Legislation has been introduced to provide comprehensive concurrent receipt reform (H.R. 333 & S. 66). Members are urged to use the FRA [Action Center](#) to ask their legislators to support these legislative proposals.

Source: FRA

---

## **Support Blue Water Navy Veterans Legislation 2017**

H.R. 299, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2017, was introduced on January 19, 2017, by Congressman David G. Valadao of California. This bill would to expand the presumptions for service connection related to exposure to herbicides containing dioxin, including Agent Orange, to veterans who served in the territorial seas of the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam War.

Veterans who served on ships no more distant from the spraying of herbicides than many who served on land are arbitrarily and unjustly denied benefits of the presumption of exposure, and thereby are ineligible for presumption of service connection for herbicide-related disabilities. This legislation would correct that injustice.

H.R. 299 currently has 148 cosponsors and has been referred to the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs. DAV supports this legislation pursuant to DAV Resolution No. 018, passed at our most recent National Convention, held at Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2016.

Please take a moment to send the prepared e-mail to your legislators to seek their support for this legislation, which would expand eligibility for "blue water" Navy veterans.

As always, thank you for your support.

Click [HERE](#) to log in and send your message!

---

## **Financial Readiness for Guard Members**

Guard members who may need assistance with financial matters can visit personal financial counselors who are available at many military installations and offer no-cost services to Guard members and their families. The personal financial counselors offer tax planning, debt repayment options and general consumer awareness as well as referrals if more specialized assistance is needed. As Guard members progress in their careers, they can try to live at a pay grade below their current one -- a move that would allow greater 'wiggle room' for financial planning and budgeting. For more information on resources in their area, Guard members can contact Military OneSource at 1-800-342-9647 or visit the Military [OneSource website](#).

---

**There is NO Legislation to Take Away Concurrent Receipt of Both Military Retirement Pay and VA Disability Compensation From Those Who Now Get It**

We have been receiving many inquiries from members regarding an issue that has apparently been going around the internet and getting many people upset. This has to do with Concurrent Receipt.

We've been asked about a CBO report that is titled "Eliminate Concurrent Receipt of Retirement Pay and Disability Compensation for Disabled Veterans."

This is NOT a proposal. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) puts out a report each year which lists government programs that could be eliminated or cut back if Congress wants to save money. However, these are only for informational purposes to Congress. They are NOT proposals.

They only would become a problem if a member of Congress decided to take information and have a bill drafted to do what the report says could be done.

TREA will let everyone know if this changes and someone in Congress or the Administration actually decides to propose this change in the law. We would, of course, do all we can to stop it.

Source: TREA

---

**VA and Service Dogs**

A service dog is a dog trained to do specific tasks for a person that he or she cannot do because of a disability. Service dogs can pick things up, guide a person with vision problems, or help someone who falls or loses balance easily. Because the handler depends on the service dog's help, service dogs are allowed to go to most public places the handler goes. Veterans with working service dogs are often provided veterinary care and equipment by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). VA does not pay for boarding, grooming, food, or any other routine expense associated with owning a dog. Each Veteran's case is first reviewed and evaluated by a prescribing clinician. For more information, visit the VA Guide and Service Dogs [webpage](#) and read the VA Vantage Point [Blog](#).

---

## **To Contact your Members of Congress**

**To Call your Representative: 202-225-2305**

**To call your Senator: 202-224-3841 or 202-224-3553**

**To call different members of Congress: 202-224-3121**

**Toll FREE Number: 866-272-6622**

---

## **Commissaries Try New Brands and Prices**

The Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) has chosen the names "Freedom's Choice" and "HomeBase" for its new private label product assortment. Private labels are known as store brands. Freedom's Choice will be the commissary brand name for food items, and HomeBase for nonfood items such as paper products and other household items. With the initial rollout targeted for May, patrons in commissaries worldwide can expect to see a number of DeCA's Freedom's Choice and HomeBase products. The number of these store brand products will continue to grow much larger over the next four to five years. Read the whole story about commissary price changes and new brands on [Military.com](http://Military.com).

---

## **SBP/DIC Offset Repeal Introduced**

Senator Nelson (Fla.) introduced legislation (S. 339) and Congressman Joe Wilson (S.C.) introduced identical legislation in the house (H.R. 846) that repeals the SBP/DIC Offset for survivors, sometimes referred to as the "Military Widows Tax."

Survivor Benefit Program (SBP) and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) payments are paid for different reasons. SBP is purchased by the retiree and is intended to provide a portion of retired pay to the survivor. DIC is a special indemnity compensation paid to the survivor when a member's service causes his or her premature death. In such cases, the VA indemnity compensation should be added to the SBP the retiree paid for, not simply substituted. It should be noted as a matter of equity, that surviving spouses of federal civilian retirees who are disabled veterans and die of military-service-connected causes can receive DIC without losing any of their federal civilian SBP benefits.

Members are urged to use the FRA [Action Center](#) to ask their legislators to support this important legislation.

Source: FRA

---

## **H.R. 846, the Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act**

On February 3, 2017 Representative Joe Wilson of South Carolina introduced H.R. 846, the Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act, a bill to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) for military surviving spouses to offset the receipt of veterans Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC).

Purchased SBP annuities are unfairly offset by the amount of any benefit payable under the VA DIC program. SBP is not a government gratuity; rather, it is a type of insurance benefit purchased out-of-pocket by military retirees for their survivors. Thousands of survivors of military retirees are adversely affected by this mandated offset between SBP and DIC benefits.

H.R. 846 is in accordance with DAV Resolution No. 009, which supports legislation to repeal the offset between SBP annuity payments and DIC payments.

Please use the prepared email or draft your own to request that your Representative support this important bill and ask that it be brought to the floor for a vote and passed as soon as possible.

Thank you for all you do for veterans and their families.

Click [HERE](#) to log in and send your message!

---

**Operation Mail Call**



Operation Mail Call needs your help! We need cards and letters to send to our troops currently serving on foreign soil.

Our men and women in uniform often go months without hugging their children, walking through the park with a significant other or enjoying Mom's home-cooked Sunday dinners.

Ask them where they'd go if they had a free plane ticket anywhere in the world, and the overwhelming majority would say, "home."

Of course, we can't replace the hugs, the love or the secret family chili recipe – but with your help, we can provide them a connection to their fellow Americans who are grateful for their service.

Now, we're hoping you'll take your support to the next level by sending more cards and letters. Hand made cards by your children, or class mates are a terrific means of putting smiles on their faces even if only for a moment.

Cards and Letters of encouragement to help boost moral and let them know we sincerely appreciate the job they are doing and look forward to they day they are all brought home. Your card or letter will show your appreciation and help thousands more American heroes feel connected to the people they love and the country they serve.

Please help us to make a powerful expression of how much their fellow Americans care about them.

Thank you so much for all you're doing to show our service men and women they are appreciated missed and loved.

If you're a school teacher, please contact me at my E-Mail address at the top, our troops love to hear from kids too!

For more information, visit: <http://veterans-for-change.org/5439-operation-mail-call-2>

---

## **Fifty Ways to Cut Spending**

At one point or another, you'll probably find yourself in a place where you need to cut spending. Sometimes, it's a temporary thing to get through a rough patch. Other times, you're spending more than you're making each month. For a list of fifty suggestions on how to cut your spending and manage your finances, see this Paycheck Chronicles [post](#).

---



## **Government Accountability Reports**

- 1) [Union Activities: VA Should Improve the Way It Tracks the Amount of Official Time Used by Its Employees.](#)
- 2) [Border Security: Additional Actions Needed to Strengthen Collection of Unmanned Aerial Systems and Aerostats Data.](#)
- 3) [Federal Courthouses: Actions Needed to Enhance Capital Security Program and Improve Collaboration.](#)
- 4) [Southwest Border Security: Additional Actions Needed to](#)

Better Assess Fencing's Contributions to Operations and Provide Guidance for Identifying Capability Gaps.

5) Department of Homeland Security: Important Progress Made, but More Work Remains to Strengthen Management Functions.

6) Army Corps of Engineers: Factors Contributing to Cost Increases and Schedule Delays in the Olmsted Locks and Dam Project.

7) Single Audits: Improvements Needed in Selected Agencies' Oversight of Federal Awards.

8) VA Health Care: Actions Needed to Ensure Medical Facility Controlled Substance Inspection Programs Meet Agency Requirements.

9) Private Health Insurance: In Most States and New Exchanges, Enrollees Continued to be Concentrated among Few Issuers in 2014 [Reissued on February 14, 2017].

10) High-Risk Series: Progress on Many High-Risk Areas, While Substantial Efforts Needed on Others.

11) High Risk: Federal Management Challenges Related to Indian Energy Resources.

12) High-Risk Series: Progress on Many High-Risk Areas, While Substantial Efforts Needed on Others.

13) Medicaid: CMS Needs Better Data to Monitor the Provision of and Spending on Personal Care Services.

14) Food Safety: A National Strategy Is Needed to Address Fragmentation in Federal Oversight.

15) Supply Chain Security: Providing Guidance and Resolving Data Problems Could Improve Management of the Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism Program.

- 16) Medicaid Managed Care: Improved Oversight Needed of Payment Rates for Long-Term Services and Supports.
- 17) Medical Devices: Cancer Risk Led FDA to Warn Against Certain Uses of Power Morcellators and Recommend New Labeling.
- 18) Grants Management: EPA Partially Follows Leading Practices of Strategic Workforce Planning and Could Take Additional Steps.
- 

## **\$1 Million Coverage from \$41 a Month**

Is SGLI Enough? VGLI too much? Get coverage customized to your family's needs. Because tomorrow is never guaranteed, start protecting your family today. Get \$1 million coverage from just \$41 a [month](#).

---



**More Reservists Now Eligible For  
Post-9/11 GI Bill**

A recent decision by the Department of the Army Human Resources Command has made a more reservists eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill. On February 10 MILPER message 17-059 was issued, stating that reservists who had certain types of active duty after September 10, 2001 may now use that time to qualify for the Post-9/11 GI Bill under 10 USC 12301(d). For more details, see this [Military.com article](#).

---

### **Veteran Crisis Resources**

**Veterans Crisis Line 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1**  
**Military Crisis Line 1-800-273-TALK (8255)**  
**National Call Center for Homeless Veterans**  
**1-877-4AID-VET (424.3838)**  
**VA Caregiver Support Line 1-855-260-3274**

---

### **New VA Secretary Urged to Push Hiring Freeze Exemptions**

Dr. David Shulkin was sworn in Tuesday as secretary of the Veterans Affairs Department and immediately was urged to begin approving thousands of exemptions to President Donald Trump's federal hiring freeze. Shulkin, who was [approved](#) by the Senate in a 100-0 vote Monday night, said, "I think we have a system that's doing terrific things with very dedicated people, but we all know we have a lot of work to do. We all agree that our veterans deserve the very, very best that we can do." For more details, see this [Military.com news article](#).

---

## **Caregiver Help: Veteran Substance Abuse and Depression**

Depression and substance use disorders can be two of the invisible wounds of war — and understanding them can give caregivers the tools they need to help their veterans. PsychArmor, a non-profit dedicated to bridging the military-civilian divide by providing resources to help community members and others engage veterans, has free video courses on a variety of military-related issues, including depression and substance use. For more details, see this [Military.com article](#).

---

***Veterans-For-Change Web Site***

The Veterans-For-Change website has been under

construction since day one back in 2009 and every day since then. The looks pretty much stay the same, but in the background constant improvement and change is being done to make our website the most user friendly “One-Stop-Shop” website to find almost everything you might have tried to find searching the internet.

Almost a hundred people have been involved; collecting web links to documents now houses on the VFC website, collecting thousands of web links for various issues, illnesses and benefits. Creating forums for all eras of service and two forums one just for men and one just for woman where you can go question, comment, share medical and personal concerns, what ever you'd like it to be.

We also have a forum with a licensed Mental Health Worker, again where you can seek help or just ask questions.

We average 1,700 hits per day, and downloads average 1,000 per day with a total 3,174,626 visitors as of Friday.

If you subscribe you will have full access to the entire website and best of all it's FREE of charge! You just need a valid E-mail address so the system can send you a confirmation E-Mail. Once received, click on the link to be authorized automatically.

**[www.veterans-for-change.org](http://www.veterans-for-change.org)**

- Documents Library with over 15,905 documents on-line

(Updated: 12/12/16)

- FAQ's with more than 1,600 FAQ's and answers
  - Multiple Forums
    - o Afghanistan Veterans
    - o FMP - Foreign Medial Program
    - o Gulf War & Desert Storm Veterans
    - o Iraq Veterans
    - o Korean Veterans
    - o Men Veterans Forum
    - o Mental Health for Veterans
    - o Political Issues
    - o Suggestion Box
    - o The Mess Hall
    - o VA Hospitals and Medical Centers
    - o Veteran Affairs
    - o Vietnam Veterans
    - o Welcome Mat
    - o Women Veterans Forum
    - o WW II Veterans
  - Job Postings
  - Memorial Pages (Updated: 10/10/16)
  - News (Articles On-Line: 6,342)
  - Polls
  - Web Links, more than 3,541, Added 46 New Links
- (Updated: 12/28/16)

If you have a submission for the memorial pages, E-Mail:

[Jim.Davis@veterans-for-change.org](mailto:Jim.Davis@veterans-for-change.org)

---

Twitter

<https://twitter.com/Veterans4Change>

---

## Links to Other Stories

- 1) [Cherokee Nation eligible for accreditation by Veterans Affairs](#)
- 2) [Congress debates: Does official time help VA employees serve Veterans or the union?](#)
- 3) [Homeless Shelter for Veterans Nears Completion in Waterloo](#)
- 4) [Office of Veterans Affairs gets \\$15K grant for treatment courts](#)
- 5) [Students hold concert to thank local Veterans](#)
- 6) [Veterans Voice: Bill would increase military pay tax exemption](#)

You can help VFC by reading articles posted and commenting at the bottom and rate the articles. If you don't have an account, sign up today, it's FREE. Your comments and rankings tell us what type of information you want most.

Check us out today: [www.veterans-for-change.org](http://www.veterans-for-change.org)

---

## Federal Military Spouse Hiring Preference Now Expanded

Military spouse hiring preference gives military spouses who have moved to a new location under military orders a leg up in the Defense Department federal job market. In the past the program, known as the Priority Placement Program, or PPP-S, had a qualifier: it could only be used up to two years after a PCS. That meant the clock started ticking for use on the report date of those PCS orders. But that two year cap is now no longer in play thanks to a measure included in the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act. For more details, see this [Spousebuzz post](#).



Are you seeking employment? Been looking and not found the right job?

Well Veterans-For-Change is working hard to bring you more information on Job Fairs and Job postings available across the country.

<http://veterans-for-change.org/documents-library/category/167-job-fairs-job-postings>

If you're an employer and have a job to post, send and E-Mail to: [Jim.Davis@veterans-for-change.org](mailto:Jim.Davis@veterans-for-change.org)

---

## **New Guidance on Hiring Freeze**

The Air Force has released additional guidance in regard to the federal civilian hiring freeze. According to the new guidance, all requests for personnel action received by the Air Force Personnel Center by Feb 7, 2017, will continue to be announced, and referral certificates will continue to be issued. If tentative job offers were given to selectees before Jan. 22, but with entry dates after Feb. 22, they will be notified of their pending status. Also, the Air Force Personnel Center (AFPC) will not be accepting recruit/fill actions without an approved hiring freeze exemption. For more information, contact [afpc.svirf.humanresources@us.af.mil](mailto:afpc.svirf.humanresources@us.af.mil), your local civilian personnel office, or visit [myPers](#) and search for 'Hiring Freeze'.

---

## **Linda McMahon confirmed to lead the SBA**

In a growing display of bipartisanship (or exhaustion) the Senate followed the unanimous confirmation of the VA Secretary with an 81-19 vote to confirm Linda McMahon to lead the SBA. Mrs. McMahon was one of the co-founders and executive officer of World Wrestling Entertainment. The SBA is an important agency for veterans for starting independent small businesses after leaving the service.

Source: TREA



---

## **Spotlight on Veteran Memorials**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) wants to spotlight the veteran memorials and monuments in your area. Send a picture of a veteran memorial with the name of the site, the location, your name, and Instagram handle (if you have one) to [newmedia@va.gov](mailto:newmedia@va.gov). VA will choose the best ones and share them on its Instagram page [@DeptVetAffairs](https://www.instagram.com/DeptVetAffairs). Take your time with the photo. Pay attention to lighting, composition, and framing in order to recognize your community's landmarks in the best way. For more information, read the VA Vantage Point [Blog](#).

---

**“We Proudly Support our  
Military Personnel & Families”**

---

## **NINE POINTS TO BE ADDRESSED**

Dear Honored Member of Congress:

In 1975 the United States military concluded its involvement in the Vietnam War. In the aftermath of the conflict, the U.S. Government concealed the truth about herbicide and toxic chemical usage until forced to acknowledge the extent of exposure issues and the health problems that resulted. Since that time thousands of Vietnam Veterans have suffered needless sickness and illness from the exposure to a variety of toxic chemicals that were conveniently lumped into one herbicide: Agent Orange.

In the ensuing years many thousands of Vietnam Veterans died from the exposures and in 1991 the Federal Government finally acknowledged the truth about the toxicity of the many “agents” to which the military members were exposed. But in the process of the acknowledgment, the government and the Veterans Administration created a very narrow list of diseases associated with the chemicals and made it very difficult for claims to be submitted and approved. One only has to look at the volume of herbicide-agent claims within the Board of Veterans Appeals to see this disparity.

The government with the Department of Veterans Affairs in the lead has totally ignored the 1992, 1994, and 1996 Environmental Protection Agency dioxin re-assessment by one of the leading EPA experts on dioxins and like compounds on biological causation findings as well as biological plausibility to include the synergy impacts on the body. They have ignored the findings of the National Institute of Health on Toxicology and have refused to publish study facts relating to statistical increases in all "SEER Cancers" found in Vietnam Veterans. This fact was stated by two of the leading research scientists on the Ranch Hand Study in under oath testimony before Congress.

Five Veterans listed herein are among those who were exposed to toxic chemicals. We and the Publisher of the Veterans for Change Newsletter have worked tirelessly to compile a document that if approved by the Veterans Administration hierarchy, would go a long way toward

correcting the wrongs committed against those who have been sickened by toxic exposures not only in Vietnam but in wars and conflicts following the Vietnam Era.

It is our hope that the Veterans Administration will adopt all of these recommendations and incorporate them into the evaluation system used for Veterans claims.

Respectfully yours,

Charles Kelley, Snellville, GA

Michael Eckstein, Stanhope, NJ

R.B. Privett, Lynn Haven, FL

Alexander Hill, Kerrville, TX

Richard Fender, Radford, VA

Jim Davis, Veterans for Change, Inc.

## RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE VETERANS CLAIMS & RELATED SERVICES

1. Amend the FERES Doctrine as it is applied now. The use of it as an all encompassing vehicle to enhance government denial on legitimate claims must end.
2. Establish searchable computerized claims processing so that if one claim is recognized and approved in one review, an identical claim in another review is processed and approved the same thereby eliminating a lengthy review process where the outcome might be different from one reviewing official/Regional Office to another.
3. Treat Peripheral Neuropathy as a stand-alone disease and eliminate the 1-year time limit diagnosis from in-country service requirements as it pertains to Veterans whose

DEROS dates would apply.

4. Veterans whose deaths occurred before a claim was processed or settled and the death was due to chemical toxicity, allow beneficiaries to receive the compensation and benefits they would normally have been entitled to had the Veteran survived and the initial claim been approved.

5. All presumptive herbicide associated claims must be approved within 30 days and Compensation & Pension Exams for those disorders must be scheduled within 60 days of approval. Using a physicians disability rating guideline that is parallel to the published V.A. rating guidelines would eliminate this delay and all of the associated government costs.

6. Presumptive issues shall have an approved list of “secondary issues” that accompany the primary medical problem based upon science and medicine. Consequently, if the Veteran claimant has a diagnosis of a primary and secondary issue, all disorders shall be approved immediately. It should be noted that secondary issues can often be more debilitating than the primary causation.

7. Use the Board of Veterans Appeals decisions as legal precedence to immediately approve at “BVA and V.A.” level all present and future claims of herbicide and other chemical association claims as well as similar generic issues for all Era Veterans (past and future) that are common for the exact same cases or claims that are generically similar for both Veterans and Widows alike.

8. Require all medical professionals in the V.A. System be licensed in the state where each practices and further be required to carry full medical malpractice insurance of whatever minimum amount is required by state statute, if

applicable.

9. Require all Active Duty personnel health records be placed on CD at time of Active Duty discharge and all other paper records be automated to CD at the time of acceptance into the V.A. System and offer a copy of the CD to each member at the time of discharge.

---

If you received this newsletter as a courtesy or a forward from a friend or relative, you can sign up to receive in your E-mail every week.

<https://gem.godaddy.com/signups/193302/join>

---



**Veterans-For-Change, Inc.**

**Riverside County, CA**

**Visit our website today**

**[www.Veterans-For-Change.org](http://www.Veterans-For-Change.org)**

**Serving those who served!**

**Please pass on to all your Veteran Friends and Family**

Distribution	
Express Mail	144,714
Boston	74,639
Courtesy Copies	3,500
Department of VA	12,383
DoD	29,343
Face Book Pages	3,475
Google	28,213
Los Angeles	134,271
Microsoft	9,432
National Guard	3963
New York	150,890
Other Social Media	41,059
San Francisco	77,300
Twitter	38
US House of Reps & Staff	985
US Senators & Staff	104
University of So. California	4,979
US Air Force	24,878
US Army	63,975
US Marines	27,456
US Navy	36,540
Veterans	19,076,909
Washington DC	139,557
Yahoo	134
	20,088,737

Please do not reply to this E-Mail, this is an unattended E-Mail address, please send all correspondence to:

[Jim.Davis@veterans-for-change.org](mailto:Jim.Davis@veterans-for-change.org)

©2017 Veterans-For-Change, Inc. | Menifee, CA 92584-8870

[Web Version](#)

[Preferences](#)

[Forward](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)

Powered by  
**GoDaddy Email Marketing**®

